

Environmental Design Program

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Maryland Department of Natural Resources
C. Ronald Franks, Secretary
www.dnr.state.md.us

Check Up – A Teacher's Resource Guide

Advancing Individual Stewardship

Check Up is a teacher's guide prepared by the Environmental Design Program of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. This teacher's guide is designed for grades 6-12 and provides teachers with the information they need to enable them to identify and implement natural resource planning and management strategies that are both environmentally sensitive and economically sound. Students conduct natural resource assessments at their school and learn first hand how to better live in harmony with the natural environment - by conserving energy and water and reducing waste. Schools that participate in **Check Up** also have the unique opportunity to serve as models, by demonstrating sound land-use practices on site. In addition, **Check Up** participation can be applied towards the certification requirements for receiving the **Governor's Green School Award** through the **Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education**.

Check Up in Practice

The **Energy Check Up** teaches students to identify the ways that energy is used at their school, read and understand an electric meter and electric bill, and calculate the amount of energy used by and the cost of running specific appliances. Students then devise a plan to reduce energy consumption and calculate potential monetary and energy savings from their plan. Finally, students prepare a presentation to bring before their principal or school board to suggest implementing changes based on the savings.

The **Water Check Up** teaches students to identify the ways that water is used at their school, read and understand a water meter and water bill, calculate the amount of water used by specific fixtures, and calculate the amount of water wasted by leaky fixtures. Students then devise a plan to reduce water waste, and calculate potential monetary and water savings from their plan. Finally, students prepare a presentation to bring before their principal or school board to suggest implementing changes based on the savings.



Advancing Individual Stewardship: The Environmental Design Program provides the tools to help local partners and motivated citizens to identify, implement and to take a more active role in environmental protection.

The **Waste Check Up** teaches students to identify types of waste produced at their school and calculate the volume of waste produced each day, month and year. Students then devise a plan for waste reduction and calculate potential monetary savings from their plan. Finally, students prepare a presentation to bring before their principal or school board to suggest implementing changes based on the savings.

To learn more about Check Up or other services offered by the Environmental Design Program, check www.dnr.state.md.us/ed or call 410.260.8710.



Advancing the application of economically sound and environmentally sensitive building and site-design techniques. The Environmental Design Program is an Education, Bay Policy and Growth Management project of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and is funded in part through the Maryland Coastal Zone Management Program, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, pursuant to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Award No. NA17OZ1124. For more information: Tel: (410) 260.8710 www.dnr.state.md.us/ed

